

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN APRIL 2006

Producers mined 1.54 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in April 2006 (table 1). Output was 6% less than that of March 2006 and 8% more than that of April 2005. Synthetic gypsum production was 769,000 metric tons (t) in April 2006 (table 1), which was 13% less than that of March 2006, and 4% more than that of April 2005. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the largest domestic consumer of gypsum. During January through March 2006 synthetic gypsum accounted for 2.43 Mt, or about 24%, of the 10.0-Mt supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 502,000 t (table 2), 7% more than those of March 2006 and slightly more than those of April 2005.

Output of calcined gypsum for April 2006 (table 1) was 2.12 Mt, 5% less than that of March 2006 and slightly more than that of April 2005. Sales of board products were about 3.0 billion square feet (275 million square meters), 15% less than those of March 2006 and slightly less than those of April 2005.

U.S. Government import and export data for April 2006 were not available at the time of publication. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in March 2006 were 970,000 t (table 3), 5% more than those of February 2006 and 29% more than those of April 2005. Gypsum wallboard imports for March 2006 were 101,000 t, equivalent to 121 million square feet (11.2 million square meters). These imports were 28% more than those of February 2006 and 106% more than those of March 2005. Canada accounted for 39% of wallboard imports, followed by Mexico with 31%, China with 16%, Germany with 11%, and Israel with 3%. Wallboard exports to 37 countries and territories in March 2006 were 9,000 t, equivalent to 10.8 million square feet (1,002,000 square meters). These exports were 15% more than those of February 2006 and 18% more than those of March 2005.

All percentages in this report were computed based on unrounded data.

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

	2006			2005
	April	March	January-April	January-April
Crude:				
Mined ³	1,540,000	1,640,000	6,260,000	5,350,000
Imported ⁴	NA	970,000	NA	3,400,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	769,000	887,000	3,190,000	2,920,000
Total supply	NA	3,500,000	NA	11,700,000
Crude, exported ⁴	NA	13,900	NA	69,100
Consumption	NA	3,480,000	NA	11,600,000
Calcined:				
Produced	2,120,000	2,230,000	8,510,000	7,780,000
Imported ⁶	NA	540	NA	1,360
Total supply	NA	2,230,000	NA	7,780,000
Exported ⁶	NA	17,900	NA	50,000
Consumption	NA	2,210,000	NA	7,730,000

NA Not available.

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

⁴Import and export data are for "Gypsum; anhydrite," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.10.0000.

⁵Reported production only.

⁶Import and export data are for "Plaster," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.20.0000.

TABLE 2
GYPSUM SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS, BY USE^{1, 2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2006			2005
	April	March	January-April	January-April
Uncalcined: ³				
Portland cement	306,000	269,000	1,100,000	1,000,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	196,000	199,000	780,000	804,000
Total	502,000	468,000	1,870,000	1,800,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	2,460,000	2,890,000	10,400,000	9,640,000
Plaster	12,400	15,800	51,500	54,500
Total	2,480,000	2,880,000	10,400,000	9,690,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁵				
Regular board	1,810,000	2,140,000	7,660,000	7,140,000
Type X board	889,000	1,020,000	3,680,000	3,370,000
Other	261,000	314,000	1,120,000	1,050,000
Total supply	2,960,000	3,470,000	12,500,000	11,600,000

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric power plants.

⁴Includes weight of paper and other materials.

⁵One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION¹

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2006			2005
	March	February	January-March	January-March
Austria	--	9	9	--
Bahrain	--	--	--	7
Brazil	--	--	1	--
Canada	526,000	539,000	1,750,000	1,650,000
China	4,800	195	5,000	16
Dominica	--	--	--	2
Dominican Republic	6,500	--	15,800	36,100
France	16	--	970	--
Germany	8,550	--	8,550	40
Jamaica	--	--	--	21,600
Korea Republic of	5	--	5	--
Mexico	329,000	271,000	857,000	563,000
Peru	--	--	--	80
Spain	94,200	117,000	255,000	217,000
Sweden	20	--	20	--
United Kingdom	--	19	19	--
Total	970,000	928,000	2,890,000	2,490,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
CRUDE GYPSUM IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption ³	Production ⁴	Imports ⁵	Exports ⁵
2005:				
April	2,320	1,420	909	12
May	2,800	1,820	994	11
June	2,580	1,620	972	10
July	2,500	1,590	923	9
August	2,550	1,630	926	12
September	2,890	1,680	1,230	18
October	2,550	1,720	848	14
November	2,400	1,550	863	17
December	2,840	1,820	1,040	14
January-December	30,200	19,200	11,200	189
2006:				
January	2,580	1,590	997	14
February	2,410	1,490	928	12
March	2,600	1,640	970	14
April	NA	1,540	NA	NA

NA Not available.

¹Excludes synthetic gypsum.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

³Consumption calculated by adding the production and imports shown in this table and subtracting the exports shown in this table. Monthly inventory changes are not included.

⁴Production data are from the semiannual gypsum canvasses of the non-wallboard producers, annual canvass of all producers, and from monthly data furnished by the Gypsum Association from the wallboard producers.

⁵Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGIONS^{1,2}

(Thousand square feet)³

	New England	Middle Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	E. South Central	W. South Central	Mountain	Pacific	Exports	Total
2006:											
April											
Veneer base	23,800	2,020	6,630	751	8,640	9	10	393	1,330	23	43,600
Sheathing	1,520	4,730	4,870	4,620	15,200	2,480	9,270	6,080	8,180	981	57,900
Regular gypsum board	39,300	136,000	206,000	106,000	520,000	129,000	256,000	193,000	184,000	36,500	1,810,000
Type X gypsum board	27,100	85,300	122,000	66,900	159,000	34,300	93,700	117,000	175,000	7,700	889,000
Predecorated board	247	773	935	433	1,180	297	1,120	296	384	56	5,720
5/16 Mobile home board	--	656	2,750	--	6,680	11,200	5,820	66	427	39	27,700
Water/moisture resistant board	5,100	20,400	14,700	6,280	31,200	5,710	12,000	10,800	14,900	4,850	126,000
Total	97,100	250,000	359,000	185,000	742,000	183,000	378,000	328,000	384,000	50,200	2,960,000
January- April:											
Veneer base	95,700	9,900	29,000	2,870	34,300	72	71	1,430	5,990	231	180,000
Sheathing	5,710	16,800	20,600	21,600	69,100	12,000	42,800	28,300	36,900	6,730	261,000
Regular gypsum board	169,000	584,000	869,000	456,000	2,250,000	566,000	1,030,000	796,000	795,000	144,000	7,660,000
Type X gypsum board	113,000	358,000	488,000	273,000	628,000	147,000	404,000	489,000	744,000	31,600	3,680,000
Predecorated board	1,090	2,950	3,790	2,060	5,160	1,620	4,210	1,730	2,600	198	25,400
5/16 Mobile home board	--	2,220	10,500	--	38,900	53,300	23,200	442	1,800	39	130,000
Water/moisture resistant board	21,400	86,800	60,700	27,000	123,000	24,600	51,700	44,700	64,700	17,900	522,000
Total	405,000	1,060,000	1,480,000	782,000	3,150,000	805,000	1,560,000	1,360,000	1,650,000	200,000	12,500,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Sales region equivalent to U.S. Census Bureau Geographic Division as follows: New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT); Middle Atlantic (NJ, NY, PA); East North Central (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI); West North Central (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD); South Atlantic (DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV); East South Central (AL, KY, MS, TN); West South Central (AR, LA, OK, TX); Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY); Pacific (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA).

³One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

Source: Gypsum Association.